

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action has set forth a restriction requirement and requires applicants to elect either claims 1-14, 29, and 30 (Group I) or claims 15-28 (Group II) for further examination. Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group II to be examined and traverse the restriction requirement in view the remarks below. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

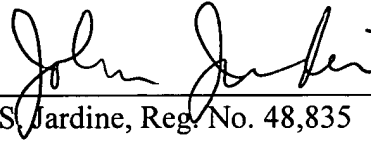
The Office action states that the claims of Group I and Group II are subcombinations that are disclosed as usable together but has provided no support for this statement. The Office action has not addressed whether the claims of Group I and Group II relate to a process and apparatuses for practicing the process. See MPEP § 806.05(e). Where two inventions are process and apparatus, to support a restriction requirement, "the apparatus cannot be used to practice the process or any part thereof." See MPEP § 806.04. Applicants respectfully submit that the apparatuses of the claims of Group I may be used to practice at least a part of the process described in the claims of Group II. Thus, restriction is improper.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants have elected the claims of Group II but respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 467-5686.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John S. Jardine", is written over a horizontal line.

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